

- 16 -

**Claims:**

1. Sliding articulation having an outer hub (2) that encloses a cavity and has raceways (7) in its inner surface, which extend parallel to the axis ( $A_2$ ,  $A_3$ ) of the sliding articulation (1), an inner hub (3) accommodated in the cavity, which has raceways (11) on its outer surface, which extend parallel to the axis ( $A_2$ ,  $A_3$ ) of the sliding articulation (1) and lie opposite the raceways (7) of the outer hub (2), and accommodate a ball (6) together with these, in pairs, in each instance, and having a cage (4) disposed between the outer hub (2) and the inner hub (3), which guides the balls (6) in an axial direction, **characterized in that** the inner hub (3) is freely displaceable relative to the outer hub (2), in the axial direction, between a first stop (8) and a second stop (9, 21), over a first distance ( $l_4$ ), by means of rolling of the balls (6) in the raceways (7, 11), and displaceable over an additional distance ( $l_3$ ) by means of sliding of the balls (6) in the raceways (7, 11).
2. Sliding articulation as recited in claim 1, **characterized in that** the cage (4) is freely displaceable relative to the

- 17 -

inner hub (3) and relative to the outer hub (2), in the axial direction.

3. Sliding articulation as recited in claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the cage (4) is guided on the inner hub (3).
4. Sliding articulation as recited in claim 3, **characterized in that** the cage (4) is a folding cage having cage guide ridges (18) that engage into the raceways (11) of the inner hub (3).
5. Sliding articulation as recited in claim 3, **characterized in that** the cage (4) is a folding cage having cage guide ridges (19) that engage in centering grooves (20) of the inner hub (3), which are formed in the ridges (17) between the raceways (11).
6. Sliding articulation as recited in claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the cage (4) is guided on the outer hub (2).

- 18 -

7. Sliding articulation as recited in claim 6, **characterized in that** the cage (4) has cage guide ridges (12) that project radially outward, which engage in centering grooves (13) of the outer hub (2) that are formed in the ridges (14) between the raceways (7).
8. Sliding articulation as recited in one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the outer hub (2) is a shaped sheet-metal part in which the raceways (7) are made without cutting.
9. Sliding articulation as recited in one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the inner hub (3) has a central bore (15) having a plug-in tooth system (16).
10. Sliding articulation as recited in one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the two stops (8, 9) that delimit the first distance (1<sub>4</sub>), over which the balls (6) roll in the raceways (7, 11), are formed by the ends of the raceways (7) of the outer hub (2).
11. Sliding articulation as recited in one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the two stops that delimit

- 19 -

the first distance (1<sub>4</sub>), over which the balls (6) roll in the raceways (7, 11), are formed by at least one split ring (21) inserted into the raceways (11) of the inner hub (3).